The NASA/NOAA Partnership

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are natural partners in the study of our Earth and its environment. As a research agency, NASA studies the interaction of Earth's elements—air, land, and water—and their influence on climate and weather. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts our seas and skies, guides our use and protection of the ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve our understanding and stewardship of the environment. Following are examples of how NASA and NOAA share complementary responsibilities:

- NASA builds and launches the weather satellites that are operated by NOAA. The newest in the series of geostationary satellites, GOES-K, was just launched from Cape Canaveral on April 25, 1997. This satellite joins two others already in orbit that keep a continuous weather watch over the United States and the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. After testing and checkout by NASA, NOAA will assume operations of this satellite.

- Meteorologists from NOAA's National Weather Service provide support for space shuttle operations through the Spaceflight Meteorology Group located at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

- NOAA's Space Environment Center in Boulder, Colorado, constantly monitors data from NASA satellites to provide critical information about space weather disturbances, such as solar flares, that may disrupt communications and power grids.

- Scientists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., work with NOAA researchers on a variety of weather and climate programs, including research about precipitation across the globe and the Antarctic ozone hole.

- NASA and NOAA are mapping beaches to understand the effects of coastal storms. A joint project between NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va., and NOAA's Coastal Service Center, Charleston, S.C., will produce a highly detailed baseline map of the beaches between Cape Henlopen, Del., and Charleston using airborne laser technology.